Setting up of Marine Aquarium in Andaman Islands

7351. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up of Marine Aquarium in Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner this will benefit the Andamans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Department of Ocean Development and the A & N Administration have been planning for establishment of a Marine Aquarium in Andamand Islands. However, this proposal is yet to be approved by the Planning Commission. The Aquarium, once established, will help in exhibiting the marine biodiversity of the Andaman Islands, promote marine life education and will also attract tourists to the Islands.

National Data Buoy Programme

7352. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the National Data Buoy Programme;

(b) the quantum of money to be spent on this programme;

(c) when will this project be completed; and

(d) what are the benefits of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The National Data Buoy Programme envisages installation of about a dozen moored data buoys at selected locations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India.

(b) The cost of the programme is being estimated.

(c) The implementation period of the project is estimated as three years.

(d) The Data Buoys will provide time series data on physical, chemical, biological and environmental parameters such as wave height & period, wind speed, & direction, air temperature, air pressure, chlorophyll, nutrients etc., required for planning operation and developemnt of shipping, ports, meteorology, research coastal zone managemnt etc.,

Coastal zone and Islands Development Programmes

7353. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the coastal zone and Islands development programme;

(b) the quantum of money to be spent on this programme; and

(c) in what manner this programme will benefit the coastal areas and islands of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Department of Ocean Development have Plan Schemes relating to the Coastal Zone &

Islands. The programmes grouped under Coastal Zone & Islands are as under:

1. *Marine Satellite Information Service (MARSIS)*

The project aims to apply the remote sensing techniques for studying the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the ocean and the geomorphological features of the coastal areas of the country. The data products generated are useful for a variety of applications like planning of developmental activities in the coastal areas and exploitation of marine fishery resources, particularly the pelagic fisheries. The budgetary provisions for this programme for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 4 crores.

2. *Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System (COMAPS)*

Under this programme, the health of the marine environment is being assessed. Data on 25 pollution parameters are being collected at 77 locations along the coastline of the country. The programme has established the current status of marine pollution at these locations. Intensive monitoring of marine pollution in areas where the pollution problems are becoming high is also being carried out under this programme. The data output of the programme will help Pollution Control Boards to constantly assess the health of the marine environment and to take appropriate control and remedial measures. The budgetary provision for this programme for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 2 crores.

3. *See Level Monitoring & Modelling (SELMAM)*

This programme monitors changes in the mean sea level along the coastline of the country. Under this programme, fine scale mapping of low lying areas is also being taken up. The tide data collected will help in predicting the extent of inundation of sea water in the low lying areas in future. This will help in taking steps to prevent large scale establishment of industries and human settlement in the low lying coastal areas. The budgetary provision for this programme for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 1 crore.

4. *Coastal Research Vessels (CRV)*

In order to strengthen the programme on Marine Pollution Monitoring, two Coastal Research Vessels, one each for east and west coast, are being acquired. The Vessels are under construction. Besides strengthening the COMAPS programme, the Vessels will also help in collection of data which are required to understand the dynamic of pollutants and also location of the safe disposal points for release of treated wastes into the sea. The budgetary provision for this programme for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 6.2 crores.

5. *Island Development Programme*

The programme aims to develop technology relating to exploitation of marine biological resources in the islands and also to study the marine ecology of the islands. Under this programme, a project to demonstrate prawn culture in the acidic soils of Andaman and a project on rejuvenation of corals in the areas where corals have been destructed in the past, have been taken up. The programme on Prawn Culture will promote self-employment among the fishermen in the Islands. The programme on coral ecology will help in reviving the coral reefs in the Islands. The budgetary provision for this programme for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 20 lakhs.

Surveys for assessment of Living and Non-Living Resources

7354. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the surveys made for assessment of living and non-living resources being carried out by the Department alongwith their location;

(b) what are the findings of the surveys and